

US Army Corps  
of EngineersDEPARTMENT OF  
ECOLOGY  
State of Washington

Combined NEPA/SEPA

# Environmental Impact Statement

## Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur

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## Get involved

Submit your comments [here](#). Please submit your comments through January 21, 2013 to be included in the scoping summary report. You can also use the form to add your name to the project mailing list or send the Co-Lead Agencies a question.

Comments can relate to any topic. If your comment relates to any of the topics below, please check the appropriate box (check all that apply).

First name \*      Last name \*      Email \*

Gary                  Graham                  gary@shuttlesystems.com

Address  
box 5089

City                      State      Zip Code      Phone

Glacier                      WA      98244      360 599 2833

What part of the proposal does your comment relate to?

☒ Vessel    ☒ Rail    ☒ Industrial site    ☐ Multiple/not listed

Does your comment relate to any of the following topic areas? (check all that apply)

### Human environment

- ☒ Noise
- ☒ Air quality
- ☒ Human health
- ☒ Traffic or safety
- ☒ Other human environment topic

### Natural environment

- ☐ Wildlife or vegetation
- ☒ Marine species, fish or fisheries
- ☒ Wetlands or streams
- ☒ Water quality
- ☐ Other natural environment topic

### EIS process

- ☐ Alternatives
- ☐ Area of potential effect
- ☐ EIS/regulatory process
- ☐ Other EIS process topic

Question and/or Comment \*

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## Additional contact information

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Department of Ecology  
425-649-7128

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Regulatory Branch  
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360-734-3156

### Tyler Schroeder

Planning and Development Services,  
Whatcom County  
360-676-6907 ext 50202

To help ensure equal access to all residents, the project will provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Please fill in the form with any requests.

Mailed comments can be sent to:  
GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead  
Agencies  
c/o CH2M HILL  
1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400  
Bellevue, WA 98004

Email comments are not being accepted at this time. If you have a scoping comment or another question, please use the online comment form. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience that this has caused; we are taking action to resolve the issue.

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# RE: Docket number COE-2012-0016: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal coal

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@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov comments@eisgatewaypacificwa.gov via ip-50-63-188-213.ip.secureserver.net

RE: Docket number COE-2012-0016: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal coal

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## **The possible effects on Whatcom County business by the addition of coal trains and a coal port.**

### **Environmental**

The expansion of strip mining of bituminous coal is environmentally a very negative business for the community that the coal is mined in. The transportation of the coal by rail is risky environmentally for the communities that it passes through.

### **Financial**

The infrastructure development of the communities that it passes through must be borne by each community. The fluctuation of the need by purchaser of the coal will be felt economically by each community not necessarily in a positive way. The time loss in each community for cars and commodities waiting for trains to pass is borne by the people in each community driving up business costs in these communities. There will be a push to build over passes over the train tracks. There are over 20 such places in the county where problems will occur. Each will be an expensive under taking.

The negative affect on real-estate values along the rail line in Whatcom County will be significant. The rail line will cut along the coast which has the greatest value in land prices in

the county. This will decrease real-estate tax revenue to the county which will drive other real-estate taxes up.

Other cities on the west coast such as Los Angeles and Portland have invested in coal port shipping and since given up due to unexpected losses in business for their coal ports. The need for coal in China may not play out as expected due to the potential down turn in business from countries such as the US due to changes in the free trade arrangements.

## **Health**

The dust from the trains does deposit on the buildings and in the lungs of those living along the rail lines. This can be confirmed by talking to those living along the tracks leading into the Roberts Bank coal shipping facility just over the Canadian border. The medical expense imposed on those individuals in the mining process and those along the rail line will be borne by those communities and the health care industry. The air quality around the coal piles at Cherry point will be compromised by the coal dust downwind from Cherry point. The coastal winds can be very strong. The cities affected would be Ferndale, Lynden, Sumas, Langley B.C. Abbotsford B.C. and those points between. During winter the robust NE winds will deposit the coal dust in Puget Sound and the islands.

The incidents of lung cancer along these belts should be studied based on the existing oil refineries which are already making a difference in these communities.

## **Environmental**

Then there is the coal loading and transport through Puget Sound and the inevitable contamination of the water ways. This will come as a result of coal and oil spills from fully loaded ships as they leave Puget Sound and reenter from China with ballast water contaminated from Chinese seas that is ejected upon returning from China. These contaminants will affect the fishing industries and sports fisherman.

## **Benefits to mankind**

To what benefit is this coal to mankind when it is burned to fuel Chinese industry. It helps create products that are shipped to the USA that under cut our products and put our companies out of business. It will even affect those folks in those companies along the rail road tracks that have also developed lung cancer. The air pollution will be very bad for the Chinese living downwind from the steam plants and very bad for global warming also. Possibly in the future methods for eliminating smoke stack emissions from coal fired plants will be available minimizing some of the negatives. The blow back air from China will arrive on our door step in due time in addition to those above mentioned disadvantages.

## **Whatcom County jobs**

The good jobs that will be created in Whatcom County by should be weighed with the harm we will be doing to the people in our county, our country and the rest of the world. Will future generations be proud to be a part of such an enterprise?

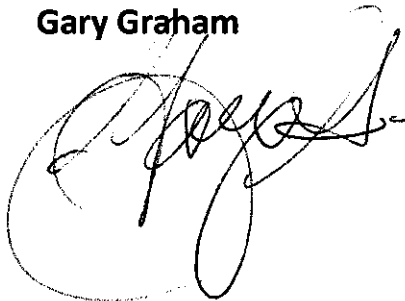
We need jobs that will decrease our dependence on foreign oil and will not harm our environment and there by decrease the outflow of US assets to the Middle East. This will help straighten out our balance of payments. This will pay down our national debt.

This will help keep Whatcom County from turning into a community that people do not want to live in. This will keep Whatcom County from appearing to the world that we will do anything to others and to the world for our own personal gain. We will appear very short sighted because it is true.

**There is still time to do the right thing.**

**Good luck Whatcom County**

**Gary Graham**

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92rg@shuttle systems.com

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